health warnings is important as it would bring about awareness amongst the youth and children and also illiterate persons, about the serious and adverse health consequences of tobacco consumption.

...(Interruptions)....

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Does anybody want to speak on the Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*... Nobody wants to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... The question is:

> ''That the Bill to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.''

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: I beg to move:

> ''That the Bill be passed.''

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)...

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move:–

> ''That the Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.''

Sir, as an emerging economy, the need to curb monopolistic practices that may lead to unhealthy accumulation of economic power in an environment of scarce resources was felt and India enacted its first anti-trust law in the form of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices, *i.e.* the MRTP Act, 1969. The thrust of this law was on prevention of concentration of economic power through monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices.

...(Interruptions)....

However, the economic reforms of the last two decades have enabled a greatly liberalized economic regime, which has also resulted in a change in the competitive environment in the country, as well as internationally. Today, the global economy is interlinked. Indian entities will have to compete not only against each other domestically but also in the international arena. In view of these trends, it is now recognized that the existing anti-trust regime is not adequate to squarely address issues of competition and anti-competitive practices in the market place, which is changing dynamically. Hence, the need for a new Competition Law was felt along with the creation of a Competition Regulatory Body and the Competition Act, 2002 was enacted. However, this Act faced a legal challenge necessitating some amendments, which are now before this august House.

...(Interruptions)....

Broadly, now the Competition Commission of India would be functioning as an expert body, along with the Competition Appellate Tribunal, which would hear appeals on the orders made by the Commission and also adjudicate on compensation claims, if any. A suitable arrangement has been proposed in the Bill so that the orders of these two bodies are properly implemented. Arrangements have also been proposed for the competition regulator to coordinate its work with other regulators through consultation.

I may mention that earlier the Bill has been extensively discussed and debated in the Standing Committee, which finally submitted its report on 12 December, 2006. I take this opportunity to thank the Standing Committee on Finance for the enlightened discussion and their valuable suggestions. We have attempted to address the suggestions of the Standing Committee keeping in view that the Competition Act had already been enacted earlier in 2002 and provided for a particular framework for competition regulation. The Bill has also been considered and passed by the Lok Sabha.

...(Interruptions)....

Sir, in recent times, the Indian economy has shown consistently good performance and has grown in size and diversity with functioning markets in many areas. Today, India is poised to play a meaningful role in the world economy. Now it is appropriate that we address the imperatives of competition so that we can bring out the best in the Indian market. This Amendment Bill is commended for the consideration of the House with this objective.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 *to* 50 *were added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, I move:

''That the Bill be passed.''

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)...